

## The Triathlon in Australia Open Data Set: A Significant Data Set

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Presented by Antoinette Cass and Rachel Peate, Library Services, Bond University



### The Book

Dr Jane Hunt first started researching and compiling her book *Multisport dreaming: The foundations of triathlon in Australia* in 2010.

The book was launched at Bond University, 20 June 2014 and chronicles the evolution of triathlon in Australia which is full of triumphs and ‘firsts’.

Australia hosted the first Olympic triathlon, the first fully professional race series and has produced wave after wave of age group and elite International Triathlon Union (ITU) and Ironman world champions. The book weaves together the individual stories of athletes, administrators, race directors and magazine publishers who helped to make the sport what it is today.

Over the course of the project Dr Hunt conducted over 200 interviews and gathered a unique set of data which form the primary materials of the Open Data Set.

This project is supported by the Australian National Data Service (ANDS). ANDS is supported by the Australian Government through the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy Program.

### AIMS

- Institutional Agenda**  
*Increasing awareness of research data as a valuable institutional asset*
- Research Answers**  
*Promoting the research that created the data and its outcomes*
- International Impact**  
*Contributing to national research excellence and productivity*
- Partnerships**  
*Enhancing the possibility of new collaborative networks*
- Future Directions**  
*Continual collection of and access to open research data*

### The Data

Countless documents have been scanned and indexed, email permissions and consent forms cross-indexed and files re-formatted to enable logical and easy access to the collection. The data set reflects the research process undertaken and displays the various formats of material collected by the researcher which is set out in separate and distinctive series such as **audio and video interviews**, **special individual collections** and **image galleries** which together will present a rich array of resources to the general public and future researchers in the field.

- The original collection consists of a comprehensive array of primary materials:
- Over 200 audio interviews by the researcher
  - Over two dozen video interviews by the researcher
  - Over 200 consent forms/email permissions
  - Numerous photograph collections donated by particular individuals displayed in image galleries with accompanying Google maps
  - Special collections – stories and documents donated by individuals and Triathlon Australia
  - Survey questions and responses

All of these data formats have required sorting and cross-indexing according to permission levels given by interviewees and donors. Subsequently not all of the original collection will be able to be uploaded to the repository. The image galleries and special collections will all have DOIs assigned at the series and item level and CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 licencing has been incorporated into the metadata.



Louise Bonham (nee Mackinlay) winning the Forster Ironman in 1992. From the Louise Mackinlay Image Gallery DOI 10.4225/57/55628a93dceec6

### A Significant Data Set

The *Triathlon in Australia Open Data Set* accumulated by Dr Jane Hunt from the Faculty of Society & Design is the largest collection of open data to become available on [e-publications@bond](mailto:e-publications@bond) and is currently being organised and uploaded into its own community in the institutional repository by the Library Services Scholarly Publications team.

Following on from the success of the book, which has been very well received by the Australian and international triathlon community, the data set is destined to become a showcase resource with national and international impact. As a complementary adjunct to Dr Hunt’s book the *Triathlon in Australia Open Data Set* is a valuable research output in itself as it provides information and evidence of research which has long term historical and cultural significance.

The data set is a major and unique collection in a new area of research and being the primary data from original research it will continue to have value for the initial and subsequent researchers. It has significant potential to raise awareness and re-use of Dr Hunt’s research organically from the source and in doing so it strengthens Bond University’s research framework and fits with its strategic focus to develop research excellence.

Having the data set available in the institutional repository not only provides open access to the collection, but enables the set to be preserved and maintained to a high standard in perpetuity. The download and viewed statistics that will be derived from this collection will demonstrate its value over time and illustrate the potential impact of data as a research output.

This open data set has value for the university as the provider of an important research collection, but also for the representatives of the sport and broader public who will be able to browse and delve into the many stories it holds. With Australia recognised as a nation that produces excellent triathletes this data set will provide historical and cultural insight into the sport and the rise of past and current champions. It is a resource that will gain value in time as an archive of rare and select data for future researchers.

DOI 10.4225/57/555d78dc1dbdd

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Triathlon in Australia Open Data Set - Dr Jane E Hunt

**Multisport dreaming: The foundations of triathlon in Australia** by Jane E. Hunt

Dr Hunt first started researching and compiling her book *Multisport dreaming: The foundations of triathlon in Australia* in 2010. The book was launched at Bond University, 20 June 2014 and chronicles the evolution of triathlon in Australia which is full of triumphs and ‘firsts’. Australia hosted the first Olympic triathlon, the first fully professional race series and has produced wave after wave of age group and elite ITU and Ironman world champions.

Over the course of the project Dr Hunt conducted over 200 interviews and gathered a unique set of data on the topic in the form of audio and video interviews, newsletters, articles, race results and photos from across Australia.

This site presents the original data collected by Dr Hunt. Data may be entirely openly accessible or partially available depending on copyright or licencing restrictions.

**The Book**

- Further information & chapter previews
- Book reviews

**Browse the Triathlon in Australia Open Data Set - Dr Jane E. Hunt Collections:**

**Community**

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Useful Links

[http://e-publications@bond.edu.au/triathlon\\_data/1205201512303737PQ](http://e-publications@bond.edu.au/triathlon_data/1205201512303737PQ)

### Promotion and Future Directions

Dr Hunt is active in promoting her research and is presenting a paper at the Australian Society of Sports History [Sporting Traditions Conference](#) in Darwin, 30 June 2015 where she will draw attention to the open data set website.

Promotion of the *Triathlon in Australia Open Data Set* by Library Services is in its infancy, but promises to be Bond University’s principal humanities data set to showcase to Bond researchers via newsletters, presentations and on a one to one basis. The reliable support of the Office of Research Services and the Associate Deans of Research will be invaluable in endorsing the merits of open research data to the Bond community especially as Dr Hunt’s data set is an exemplar of the University’s Code of Conduct for Research Policy’s edict that ‘Research data and primary materials should be made available for use by other researchers for further research’ (3.3.6).

Dr Hunt’s *History of triathlon in Australia* data was described in Research Data Australia in 2013 and this record has been expanded to include extra information on the open data set becoming available in 2015.

Dr Jane E. Hunt has received and continues to receive much support for her ongoing research into triathlon history and culture.

- The collection of material by the researcher is ongoing
- There will be a continual provision of primary materials/data to Library Services for open access
- Dr Hunt is advising the USA Triathlon Association on the importance of archiving data and making it openly accessible
- US sport researchers are becoming aware of Dr Hunt’s research which will be enhanced by the open data collection

The Scholarly Publications team is working closely with Dr Hunt to integrate further research data into the institutional repository and explore cloud storage and access options with her particularly in regard to her aims to set up an openly accessible *International Digital Triathlon Archive* in Australia.

Working with Dr Hunt has been a constructive and rewarding experience as she has been generous in her time and sharing of resources to the benefit of the university, triathletes, scholars and the ever expanding open access community.

*This is just the beginning!*